



What should Soma grow? सोमा क्या बोये ?



Written by: Munda Writers' Group
Illustrated by: Sugrib Kumar Juanga

Original Story in Munda 'Somaga Siyu Chalu' — Written by Munda Writers' Group
Illustrated by: Sugrib Kumar Juanga

'Somara Chasa' — Odia Translation from Munda by Munda Writers' Group
'What should Soma grow?' — English Translation from Odia by Amrit Mishra
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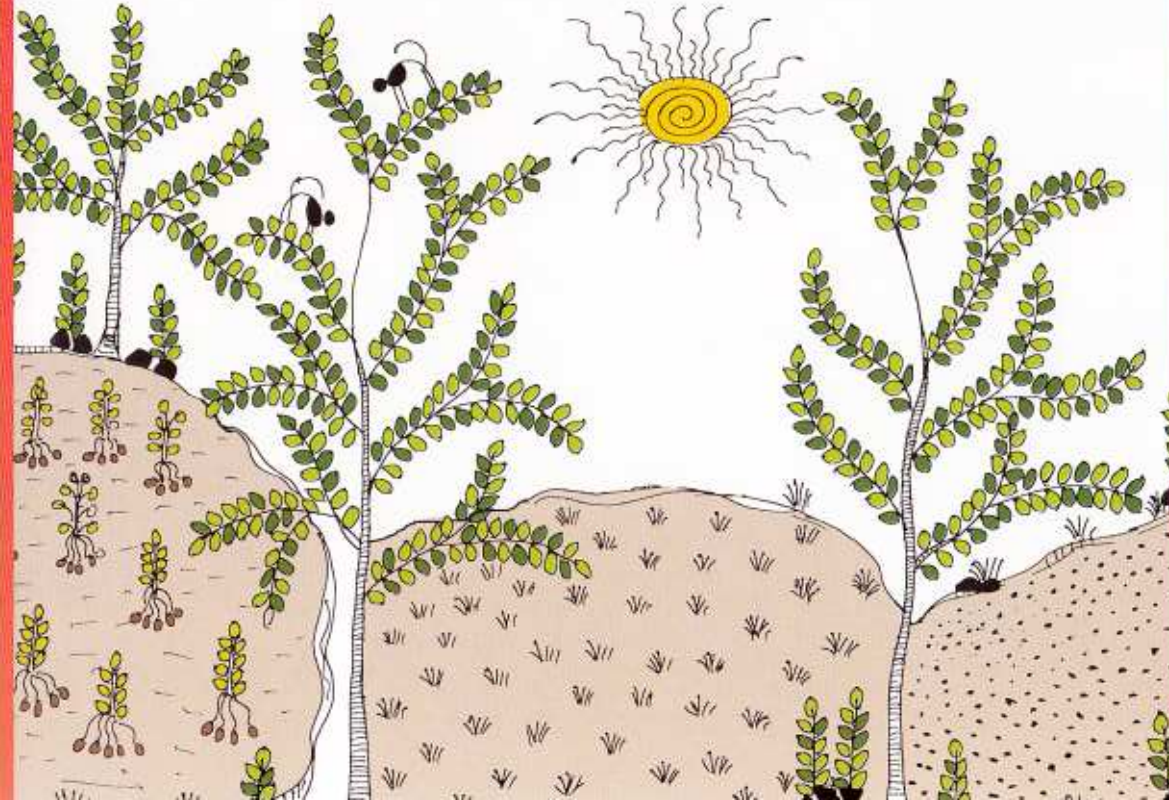
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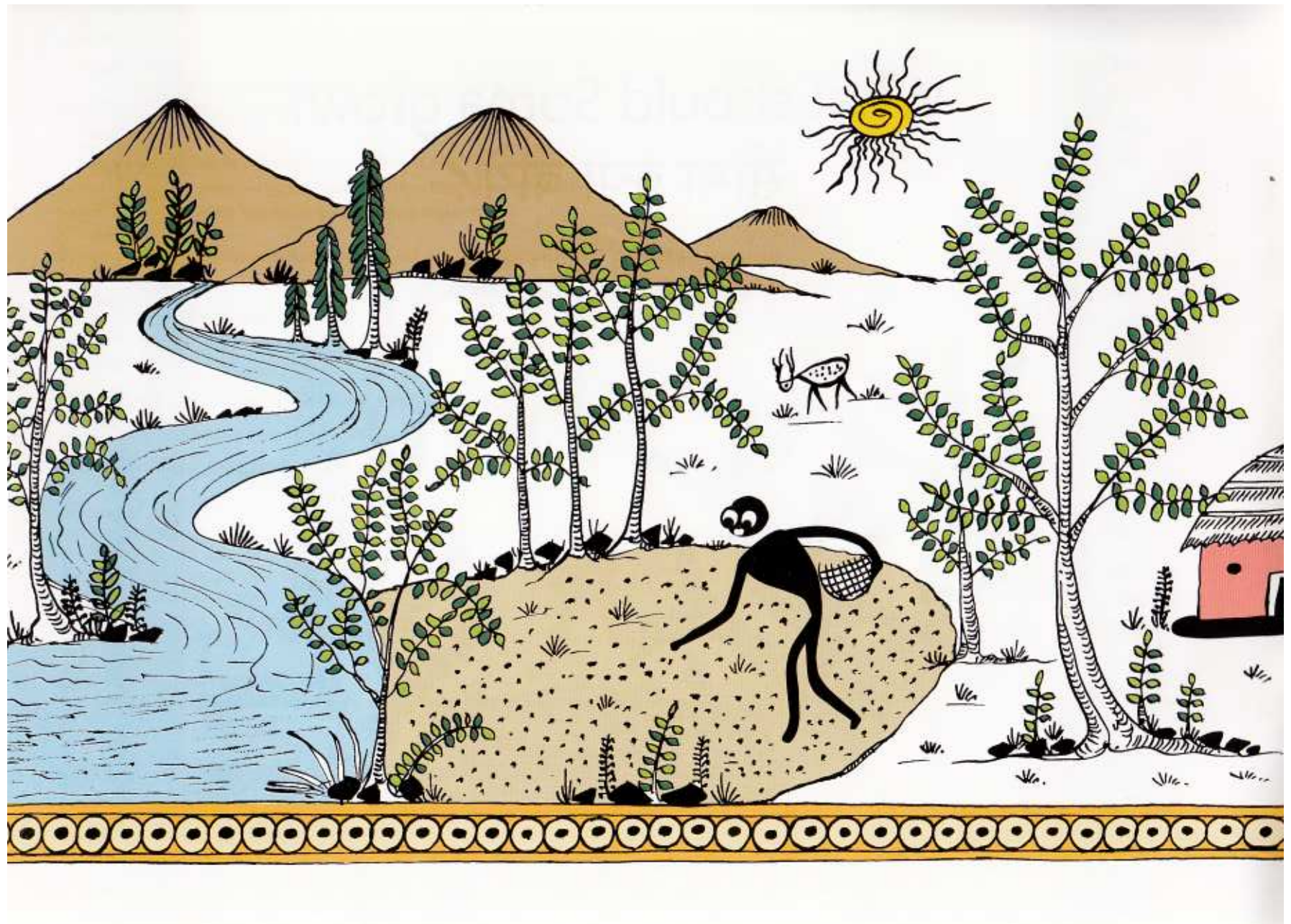


PRATHAM BOOKS

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There was an old man named Soma. He used to eat fruits from the trees in the forest. One day while he was wandering about, he came to a stream.

"Why don't you start farming?" the stream said to him. Old man Soma cleared some trees on both sides of the stream. He tilled the land and sowed some oats.



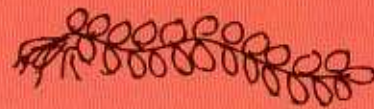
बहुत पहले एक बूढ़ा रहता था। उसका नाम था सोमा। वह जंगल के पेड़ों से फल खाया करता था। एक दिन जंगल में घूमते-घूमते वह एक नदी के किनारे पहुँचा।

उस छोटी नदी ने कहा, "तुम खेती क्यों नहीं शुरू कर देते?" सोमा ने नदी के दोनों किनारों पर जगह साफ़ करके कुछ जई के दाने बोये।



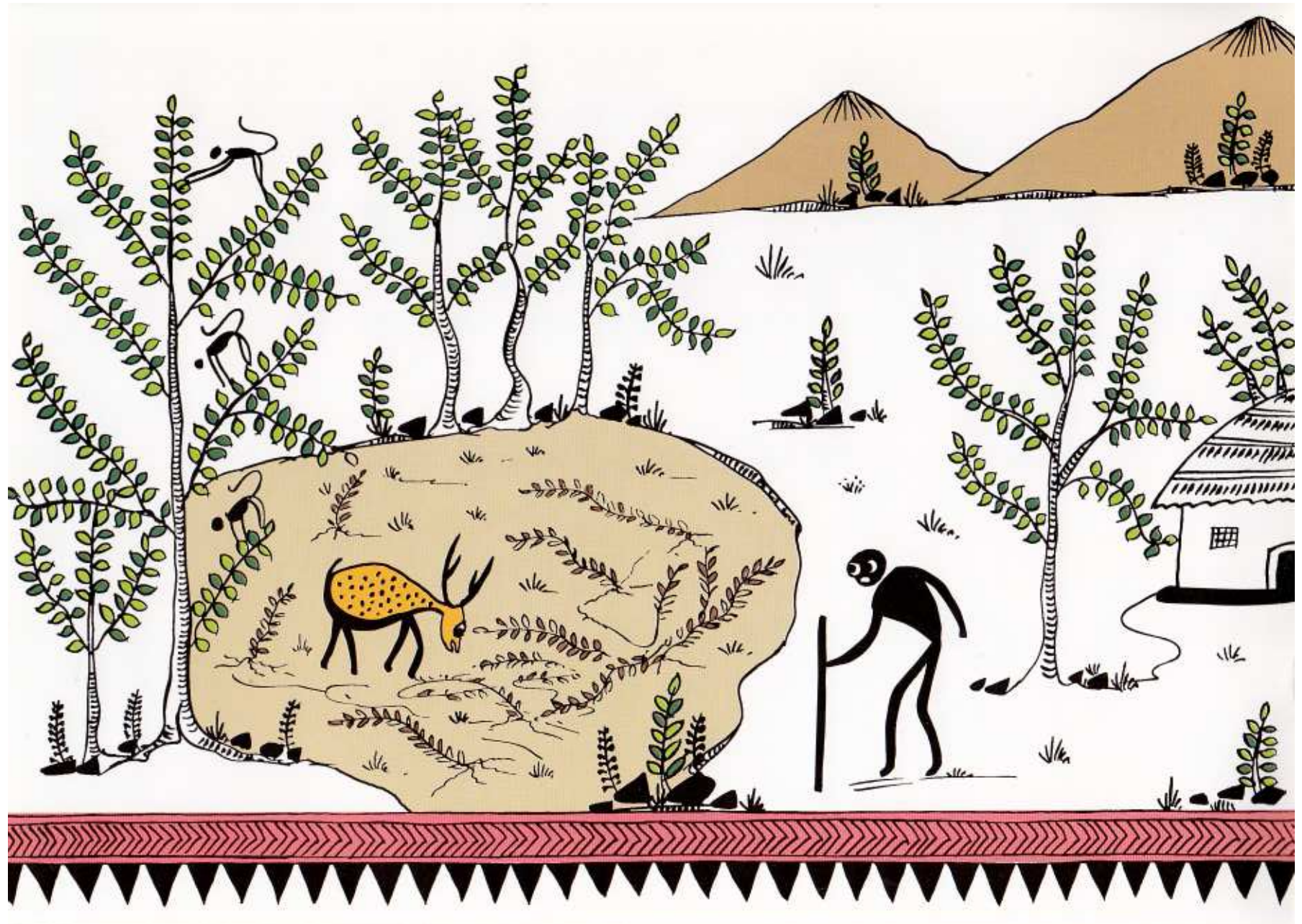
When the oats were ripe, a squirrel came along to eat them. "Why are you eating my oats?" Soma asked the squirrel. "If you'd grown horse-gram, I wouldn't have eaten them," said the squirrel.

Old man Soma sowed some horse-gram in his field.



जैसे ही दाने पकने को आये, एक गिलहरी आई और दाने खा गई। "तुम मेरे दाने क्यों खा रही हो?" सोमा ने गिलहरी से पूछा। "अगर तुमने चने बोये होते तो मैं उन्हें नहीं खाती," गिलहरी ने कहा।

बूढ़े सोमा ने अपने खेत में कुछ चने बो दिए।



When the horse-gram was ripe, a deer came along to eat it. "Why are you eating my horse-gram?" Soma asked the deer. "If you'd grown maize, I wouldn't have eaten it," said the deer.

Old man Soma sowed some maize on his land.



जब चने उगे तब एक हिरण आया और उन्हें खा गया। “तुमने मेरे चने क्यों खाए?” सोमा ने उस हिरण से पूछा। हिरण बोला, “अगर तुम मकई बोते तो मैं उसे नहीं खाता।”

अब बूढ़े सोमा ने अपनी ज़मीन में थोड़ी मकई बोयी।



A parrot came along to eat the maize. "Why are you eating my maize?" Soma asked the parrot. "If you'd grown peanuts, I wouldn't have eaten it," said the parrot.

Old man Soma sowed some peanuts.



एक तोता आ कर मकई के दाने चुगने लगा। “तुम मेरी मकई क्यों खा रहे हो?” सोमा ने उस तोते से पूछा। तोता बोला, “अगर तुमने मूँगफली बोयी होती तो मैं उसे नहीं खाता।”

बूढ़े सोमा ने अब कुछ मूँगफली बोयी।



A jackal came along to eat the peanuts. "Why are you eating my peanuts?" Soma asked the jackal. "If you'd grown sweet potatoes, I wouldn't have eaten them," said the jackal.

Old man Soma sowed some sweet potatoes.



कुछ समय बाद एक सियार आया और मूँगफली खाने लगा । सोमा ने उससे पूछा, "तुम मेरी मूँगफली क्यों खा रहे हो?" "अगर तुमने शकरकन्दी बोयी होती तो मैं उसे नहीं खाता," सियार ने कहा ।

बूढ़े सोमा ने कुछ शकरकन्दी बोयी ।



A hog came along to eat the sweet potatoes. "Why are you eating my sweet potatoes?" Soma asked the hog. "If you'd grown sesame, I wouldn't have eaten them," said the hog.

Old man Soma sowed some sesame.



उन शकरकन्दियों को एक सुअर आ कर खा गया। "तुम मेरी शकरकन्दी क्यों खा रहे हो?" सोमा ने सुअर से पूछा। सुअर बोला, "अगर तुमने तिल बोये होते तो मैं नहीं खाता।"

बूढ़े सोमा ने थोड़े तिल ज़मीन में बो दिये।



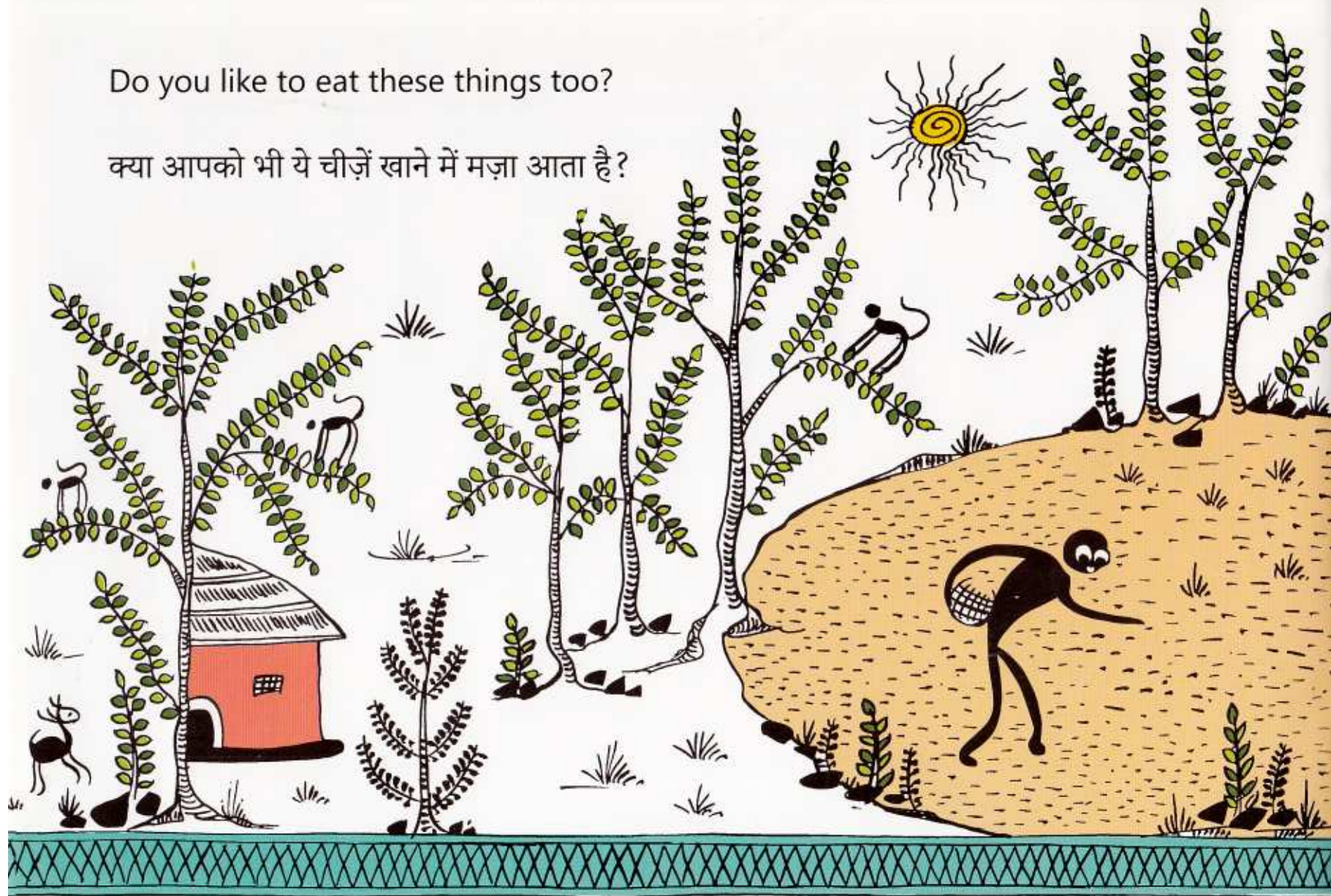
This is how Soma learnt to grow different kinds of crops.
He and the animals lived happily ever after.



इस तरह से बूढ़े सोमा ने अलग-अलग तरह की फसलें उगाना सीखा। वह
और उसके जानवर दोस्त मज़े से रहने लगे।

Do you like to eat these things too?

क्या आपको भी ये चीज़ें खाने में मज़ा आता है?



The Concept

India's diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children's literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

The Project

Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children's reading pleasure in Munda, Kui, Saura and Juanga languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called **Adikahani**. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.

The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.

Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.



This story was written by the Munda Writers' Group consisting of Budhanatha Munda, Prafull Surin, Prafulla Tapno, Rabindra Kumar Singh and Santosh Kumar Singh. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Sugrib Kumar Juanga using the Saura wall mural style as a base. The Munda language has more than 5 lakh speakers and is spoken in Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts of Odisha. It is a group of languages spread over a geographical area beyond state boundaries and has been a repository of fascinating myths that have attracted linguists and litterateurs. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.

How did people start growing so many different kinds of crops?
The Mundas believe they know who helped!

TITLES IN THE SERIES

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The Water Seed
What Should Soma Grow?

Saura

The Catty Ratty Tale
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PRATHAM BOOKS

Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes books in multiple Indian languages to promote reading among children.

www.prathambooks.org

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